

Thank you. My name is Jeremy Nichols, and I'm a climate energy program director for Wild Earth Guardians, and I reside in Golden, Colorado. Thank you for having us today and for listening to our all our concerns. I think there was a comment earlier in the morning about this being an honest process, and I want to say we couldn't agree more because honesty is very important. To that end, I want to express our honest belief that we do feel that the result of this reform effort needs to be more coal being kept in the ground. We are facing a climate crisis, a global climate crisis right now. We have an enormous challenge just to keep global temperatures in check. We're in the all-hands-on-deck era right now, and keeping as much fossil fuel in the ground as possible is key to eliminating greenhouse gas emissions and safeguarding our climate. I also want to be honest, though, that I firmly believe that keeping coal in the ground shouldn't mean that people are just kicked down the street and communities are left hanging. I believe that this reform effort presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to chart a just transition. There's been a lot of talk about transition today, and I think that with the coal industry collapsing, things are not getting better. I think now is our moment to say we are going to chart a new path forward. We are going to invest in communities and redevelopment, and we are going to help workers move to a more sustainable and prosperous profession. The Interior Department can play a leading role in helping to make that happen, both in leading policy initiatives, shifting resources, and providing expertise to communities to aid them as a transition. It's not easy. Coal has done a lot of good for this state. I don't deny that. I don't think any of us deny that, but I think those days are gone. I think we can either let things continue to get worse or we can take the bull by the horns here and steer it in a better direction. Our current generations and our future generations are really at stake here whether you're looking at the climate or you're looking at our economy. We do support keeping it in the ground, but we support a just transition. That needs to be a part of that. So I hope that, as the Interior moves forward and analyzes the federal coal program, that it will recommend reforms that transition is paramount in that endeavor. Thank you. I appreciate your time.